

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3033

REF: TEL AVIV 2794

1. IN COURSE OF FIVE-DAY VISIT, NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE GROUP ASKED SEVERAL ISRAELI OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MINISTER OF DEFENSE PERES AND MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL EVRON, ABOUT ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. IN RESPONSES, ISRAELIS STRESSED THAT THEIR DISAPPROVAL OF APARTHEID IS NO REASON TO REFRAIN FROM TRADE RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. ISRAELIS ALSO MADE POINT OF INTERNATIONAL HYPOCRISY IN LINKING RACISM AND ZIONISM, NOTING THAT LITTLE COMMENT IS GENERATED ABOUT FRENCH BEING WEAPONS SUPPLIER FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

2. ISRAELI OFFICIALS REFUSED TO COMMENT WHEN ASKED ABOUT EXISTENCE OF ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICAN ARMS RELATIONS. THEY ALSO DECLINED TO GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT THEIR RELATIONS WITH IRAN, OTHER THAN TO CONFIRM THAT 80 PERCENT OF THEIR CRUDE OIL IS IRANIAN WITH MOST OF THE REMAINDER COMING FROM MEXICO AND VENEZUELA.

3. COMMENT: BY BEING SO RETICENT TO DISCUSS THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN AND IRANIAN CONNECTIONS, ISRAELIS INADVERTENTLY GAVE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE IN BOTH CASES.

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